SENATE BILL 3627 By Southerland

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 5, Part 1, relative to emergency medical services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 5, Part 1, is amended by inserting the following as a new, appropriately designated section thereto:

SECTION 71-5-1___.

- (a) As used in this section, "illegal alien" means a person who is not entitled to lawful residence in the United States pursuant to the federal Immigration and Naturalization Act.
- (b) The bureau of TennCare shall make available to all residents of this state the emergency medical services that are available to illegal aliens as part of the TennCare program.
- (c) To the extent that such emergency medical services are required by the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 or other applicable law to be provided only if certain income or other eligibility standards, terms or conditions are satisfied, those same eligibility standards, terms or conditions shall be applied to all residents of this state.
- (d) This section is not applicable to any Tennessee resident who is not an illegal alien and who is a TennCare enrollee unless and until the person is no longer a TennCare enrollee.

(e) In no event shall this section be construed to provide greater benefits to other Tennessee residents than are currently available to illegal aliens pursuant to federal and state law.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006, the public welfare requiring it.

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